

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
 - (a) receiving a programming signal onto an RFID reader in a remote control device, wherein the programming signal conveys codeset data.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - (b) conveying energy from the RFID reader to an RFID transponder; and
 - (c) using the energy to power circuitry in the RFID transponder, wherein the circuitry uses the energy to generate the programming signal.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising, before (a):
 - (b) conveying energy from the RFID reader to an RFID transponder.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the energy is conveyed from the RFID reader to the RFID transponder through inductive coupling.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the programming signal is conveyed to the RFID reader by an RFID transponder that variably absorbs a magnetic field generated by the RFID reader.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the programming signal is conveyed to the RFID reader by an RFID transponder that is part of an electronic consumer device.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the programming signal is conveyed to the RFID reader by an RFID transponder that is part of a codeset card.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the codeset data are a number indicative of a particular codeset.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the codeset data include codeset key data that correspond to a function of an electronic consumer device.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the codeset data include codeset key data that comprise a digital key code number and timing information, wherein the timing information describes a digital one and a digital zero.

11. A device comprising:
an RFID reader module;
a coupling element; and
a transmitter, wherein the RFID reader module receives a programming signal from the coupling element, wherein the programming signal conveys codeset data, and wherein the transmitter transmits an operational signal containing at least a portion of the codeset data.

12. The device of claim 11, further comprising:
a capacitor, wherein the capacitor and the coupling element together form an LC circuit.

13. The device of claim 11, wherein the coupling element receives the programming signal from an RFID transponder via absorption modulation.

14. The device of claim 11, wherein the RFID reader module interrogates an RFID transponder module, and the RFID transponder module generates the programming signal.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the RFID transponder module is part of a passive RFID transponder.

16. The device of claim 14, wherein the RFID transponder module is part of an electronic consumer device taken from the group consisting of: a television set, a video cassette recorder, a digital video disc player, a stereo equalizer, a radio tuner, a set-top box for receiving programming via a satellite, and a set-top box for receiving programming via a cable.

17. The device of claim 11, wherein the codeset data include codeset key data that correspond to a function of an electronic consumer device.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the function of the electronic consumer device is taken from the group consisting of: power on, volume up, volume down, mute, channel advance, channel back, cursor up, cursor down, cursor right, cursor left, menu, select, play, record, stop, forward, back and pause.

19. A device comprising:

a transmitter that transmits an operational signal containing codeset data, wherein the codeset data include

codeset key data that correspond to a function of an electronic consumer device; and

means for receiving a programming signal using inductive coupling and absorption modulation, wherein the programming signal contains the codeset data.

20. The device of claim 19, wherein the function of the electronic consumer device is taken from the group consisting of: power on, volume up, volume down, mute, channel advance, channel back, cursor up, cursor down, cursor right, cursor left, menu, select, play, record, stop, forward, back and pause.